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The Fort Erie Times

www.forterietimes.ca

Thursday, December 1, 2016



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Santa comes to town

KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

On a glorious morning in Fort Erie, a good crowd turned out for the popular Christmas Parade, and were rewarded with the arrival of Santa following a procession of bands, floats, fire engines, service clubs, businesses, kids and animals.



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Redekop says referendum on at-large regional chair election a logical step

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Mayor Wayne Redekop says there may be unintended consequences if the province follows through with its plan to make it mandatory that chairs of regional governments are to be elected by voters.

Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa introduced new legislation last month that would include changes to the 2001 Municipal Act.

Under the current model, the chair is first elected as a regional councillor. At the start of each term, councillors can enter a race to be appointed the regional chair or chairwoman through a vote made by the 30-member council they are aiming to lead.

Alan Caslin is this term's chair. He was elected as one of six councillors in St. Catharines in 2014.

Although the mayor supports democracy and electing representatives to government, he said there are several uncertainties that should be considered before passing any changes.

"I'm a little surprised the provincial government is taking the

approach it's taking," Redekop said.

However, this step could also be part of the process in the ongoing "One Niagara" push, a recommendation to amalgamate the region's 13 municipal governments, a cause publicly supported by people in the business community claiming there needs to be less bureaucracy and when developing and expanding, Redekop added.

"I give them more credit than I normally do if they've thought it through this far."

Asking voters for their opinion on this issue through a referendum in the next election would be a logical approach, according to the mayor.

"Let the people of the various regions decide what they prefer."

The chair is first elected as a regional councillor. At the start of each term, councillors can enter a contest to be appointed the regional chair or chairwoman through a vote made by the 30-member council they are aiming to lead.

Redekop also worries that party politics would become more noticeable in regional politics and municipal elections if the chair is

elected at large.

"You may end up politicizing regional council more than it's politicized right now."

Fort Erie Reg. Coun. Sandy Annunziata says this is a matter he is somewhat indifferent to because it isn't something he has heard as an issue for constituents.

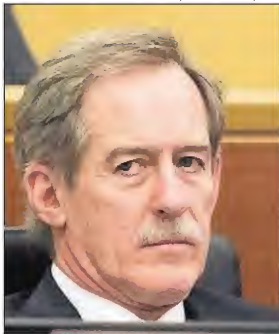
"The people I speak with - it's not an issue for them," said Annunziata.

"People are more concerned about jobs, taxes and services being delivered in an affordable way."

However, he's not a fan of governments making unilateral decisions on behalf of people and that public input needs to be factored into any changes.

"Here's a perfect situation where the Liberal government seems to think that they know what's best," said Annunziata.

Current chair Alan Caslin said there are a lot of unanswered questions with at-large elections for regional chairs. "We finally got all of our municipalities pulling in the same direction, having a voice at the table, no matter how big or how small," he said. "With an elected chair, does that



Mayor Wayne Redekop is not a fan of at-large election for regional chair.

mean that only the larger communities are going to (elect) a chair because of the number of votes that they contain? How is that going to work?"

Caslin said at-large elections for regional chair could also drive many qualified candidates away because it would be more expensive, largely because they would have to campaign over a large geographic region. "Niagara is four federal and provincial election zones. Whoever runs for chair has to cover ... four times what any provincial or federal candidate would have to cover," he said.

"How would they cover the cost of doing that? And what type of candidate does it attract? Is it going to be the loudest voice? Most recognized name? Or, do we want the most qualified? Does the most qualified candidate even get a chance in such a harsh election process?"

Caslin said he hopes the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a non-profit organization that represents almost all of the province's 444 municipalities, will oppose the province "just dictating what it thinks is best."

With files from Ray Spiteri, Post-media Network

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Briefs

TOWN BRIEFS

Councillor wants update on physician recruitment

Ward 4 Coun. Marina Butler during the new business portion of Monday's meeting, asked staff to provide an update on its physician recruitment program.

The town's director of health and wellness Russ Wilson, who oversees this initiative, will be invited to address council in the New Year.

Town supports access to oral health

Council has supported a resolution brought forward

by the Bridges Community Health Centre pushing for the province to expand dental health programs.

A presentation was given by health promoter Ashley Chiarello and executive director Taralea McLean at Monday's council meeting.

Dominion Road reconstruction expected to begin in 2017: Annunziata

At every regular council meeting, Fort Erie's Reg. Coun. Sandy Annunziata provides local politicians with an update on activity at the Region.

On Monday, he said the long-awaited reconstruction of Dominion Road is expected to be tendered within a week.

Construction is expected to begin in 2017 and will occur between Buffalo and Burleigh roads. In 2015, Dominion Road was named the worst in Niagara and the ninth-worst in Ontario.

Annunziata also said a grand opening ceremony for the Central Avenue bridge is expected to be scheduled very soon as there is still some minor aesthetic and streetscape work that needs to be finished on the project, which ended up with a price tag of more than \$16 million.

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Santa arrives in Fort Erie



It was a mild morning for the popular Fort Erie Christmas Parade Saturday, when a huge and delighted crowd turned out for the procession of floats, bands, fire trucks, service organizations, businesses, kids and animals that preceded Santa along the downtown streets.

INSIDE   
forterie

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The
Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Cozy club should fear unleashed populism

Let's return to the topic of an elected chair for Niagara Region.

More specifically, the resistance to the idea shown by the local political establishment. The somewhat strong arguments for maintaining the status quo — having council select one of its own members as the boss — revolve around the difficulty of running a Niagara-wide campaign. It would be expensive, logistically challenging and likely bring party politics into the fray. Less convincing is hand-wringing over the idea that a direct election would favour candidates from the Region's larger cities. First of all, I don't accept that assertion. Certain circumstances, for instance, could lead to widespread support for an anybody-but-St. Catharines-candidate movement, with a small-town hopeful being the beneficiary.

Second, if the assertion does have merit, too bad. It's a representation-by-population system. Deal with it. Besides, the ankle-biter municipalities will still have majority representation on council, whether they deserve it or not. And they don't.

Still, the above concerns are not without some merit.

The goosier arguments go something like this: things are working just fine, thank you very much; the voting public, quite frankly, doesn't necessarily have the smarts to pick the right person; and trouble could be in the offing if voters choose a chair who is not in synch with the views of the majority of council. All of which suggests nothing quite disturbs the members of a cozy club quite like the prospect of populism gone wild. For reference, see year 2016. I'll forego any musings about Bob Ford or Donald Trump clones surfacing in the 2018 election and instead suggest another type of political rogue. One suspects that if a direct election for regional chair is held in 2018, the usual suspects will run and campaign on the old, eye-glazing favourites of low taxes, better services and job creation. But what if a candidate, say an outsider with a reasonable community profile and sufficient credibility, separates himself/herself from the rest of crowd by vowing to work toward a single-municipality Niagara?

This is a very complex proposal, and Niagara encompasses a large geographical area with disparate parts and no universally accepted centre. That said, nothing quite boils the blood of the masses here like the number of politicians (125) and councils (13, including Niagara regional) in place to govern a population of around 450,000. With that number of municipalities comes a bevy of CAOs, planning directors, public works managers, treasurers and economic development departments.

Whether a drastic reduction in politicians, a minor culing of the bureaucratic herd and less overlap in service delivery would result in better local government for Niagara residents is an argument that could go on forever, largely because predicting the impact of amalgamation is guesswork. Regional council has investigated the possibility of some form of amalgamation in the past but because of uncertainty, complacency, resistance to change or lack of perceived public interest those efforts didn't lead to any action. Like I said, this isn't a simple issue.



Do you remember?



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JUDIE SCOTT

As we received no calls or e-mails for last week's centennial photo, it will go back into the unidentified people binders here at the Museum. For all of you who remember 1967, isn't it remarkable that next year marks 50 years since that centennial?

Our thanks to Shirley Wellington Grace who called in to let us know that the lady in the previous week's photo was her mother Maude Grace. Mrs. Grace was celebrating her 100th birthday when this photo was taken. Happily, she went on to enjoy her 103rd birthday as well.

We hope many of you got out to enjoy the Santa Claus parade last weekend. Some day in a future Do You Remember photo, you may see yourself in that parade and be invited to call in and let us know all about it. This week's photo of a Santa Claus parade took place in 1961. Do you recognize the firefighters or the little girl on Santa's lap? Santa of course is Santa. Please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or send us an e-mail museum@forterie.ca.

But maybe it is viewed as such by others. Perhaps a candidate would be tapping into heretofore unknown, widespread frustration with politicians who have failed to recognize, acknowledge or care how over-governed we are in Niagara. Offering simple

solutions to real or perceived problems in election campaigns has proven in many instances to be a winning strategy. True, even if a candidate espousing this viewpoint was elected chair by the people, he/she would only be one vote on council.

However, the rest of the council would have to pay heed to the fact its leader received a region-wide mandate to rock Niagara's municipal world. No wonder the local political establishment is worried.

—Doug Herod, Postmedia Network

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The Treblaires Ladies Show Choir has been singing, growing, evolving and performing throughout the Niagara peninsula for more than years.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, this talented group will bring characters and songs from classic TV Christmas specials to life in Stay Tuned's Treblaires Christmas Special at the Stevensville Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

With appearances by Frosty, Rudolph, Charlie



Brown and the Grinch, among others, this concert will be a delight for all ages. The music selection will also include beloved religious carols as well as many traditional secular holiday songs. Seasonal

refreshments including gingerbread cookies and spiced cider will follow the one-hour concert.

Tickets are available now at any library branch for \$5, or you can pay at the door.

In tonight's movie at 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch, Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant star in Florence Foster Jenkins, a beautifully told, complex tale of a New York heiress who pursued her dream of becoming a great singer, not knowing that her voice was hilariously awful.

Next week's film is Captain

Fantastic, starring Viggo Mortenson as a dad who has devoted himself to protecting and teaching his six children in the remote Pacific Northwest, and who then has to bring them out into the world, where his ideas of parenting are challenged. Captain Fantastic will play on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Crystal Ridge branch, and at the Centennial branch on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Do you know about the robots at the library? Children ages 7 and up

can visit the Crystal Ridge branch on Saturday, Dec. 10 to meet Dash, Sphero, Ozobot, and the Lego Mindstorms. Learn how to code while experimenting with these fun teaching toys. Please register ahead of time by calling any library branch. There is a \$2 fee for Robots at the Library.

Do you still have shopping to do? If so, please remember our mitten trees and book baskets while you are out. And if you are a knitter, please think of the local children who would

benefit from a warm cap, scarf or mitts on a cold morning. There is still time to bring warm, knitted or purchased mittens and new books for area children from pre-school to high school levels to any library branch, through Dec. 12.

Donations at the Centennial branch will be matched up and tied with pretty ribbons by the Friends of the Library and other volunteers on Dec. 13 beginning at 4 p.m., then distributed through area churches and charities.

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Deputy Fire Chief Keith German

Fort Erie Deputy fire chief ready to step down

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Deputy Fire Chief Keith German is stepping down from his position to focus on a local business he and his wife have owned since 2001. His family moved from Northern Ontario in 1994 when he accepted a position with the Fort Erie Fire Department as chief training officer to develop and implement programs mandated by the province.

He was named deputy chief in 2004 and announced last week that he will be retiring from 38 years as a firefighter, effective April of next year.

"The plan was for me to get

out of fire service by the time I was 60," said German, who just celebrated the milestone birthday in October.

Seven years after relocating his family to Fort Erie, German and his wife Debbie bought Color Your World, which was renamed Color and Design Centre in 2004.

German says the paint and home décor shop on Garrison Road continues to do well and that he is going to spend more time involved with its operation.

"The store is getting a lot of business," he said in an interview this week.

He looks forward to his remaining months with the fire department and says his time there has been "nothing

short of memorable.

"I still enjoy my work — I love working with everyone and the town's been really good to me."

The outgoing deputy chief also says there is plenty of talent around to fill his boots, once he departs.

"There are so many young, energetic people I've met around this province," said German, who is also an instructor at the Ontario Fire College in Gavenhurst, something he will continue when he is available to.

Fort Erie has felt like home for a very long time for him and his family," said German.

"We really found it hard to leave — then we thought

the business, which really cemented our roots here."

"Keith has been instrumental in creating a volunteer firefighter training program that is recognized as one of the best in Ontario," said Fire Chief Larry Copley.

"It is due in large part to Keith's dedication over the years that Fort Erie's volunteer firefighters have become renowned for their professionalism and skill," Chief Administrative Officer Tom Kuchyt said, adding "his dedication and commitment will be missed and we wish Keith well in the future."

The process to recruit German's replacement will begin in the new year.

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Let there be light at Point Abino

KIRIS DURE
Special to the Times

The Point Abino Lighthouse Preservation Society is asking the Town of Fort Erie for permission to move ahead with its next project.

On Monday night, PALPS president and local historian Rick Doan updated council on his group's vision to commence a plan that would turn the light back on at the historic structure, which turns 100 years old in 2017.

The first step would be an examination of the \$1-million Fresnel lens that currently sits atop the lighthouse along Lake Erie in Crystal Beach.

Also, a 100-watt light bulb would be attached to the lens with zip ties and will be visible more than 2.5 miles away. Doan said at Monday's regular council meeting at town hall.

He also claims it will not disturb nearby homes or marine activity and that the Canadian Coast Guard is

supportive of what PALPS is offering.

"Our plan would be non-destructive," said Doan.

The group is also requesting that the hand-

cranked clockwork mechanism at the top of the lighthouse be brought down to the first floor where other artifacts are kept and will be displayed during the

100-year celebrations taking place in the upcoming tour season.

Coun. Stephen Passero made a motion in the new business portion of Mon-

day's meeting on the issue.

Approved by council, municipal staff has been asked to provide a report on the project proposed by PALPS, expected to contain information on costs and the scope of work that would need to be completed.

In 2011, Fort Erie spent \$1.4 million on lighthouse improvements, with \$425,000

of that amount coming from a Parks Canada grant.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1995 and classified as a heritage building by the federal government.

The Town of Fort Erie acquired it from Public Works Canada in 2003 for the purpose of maintaining its history.



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Health Corner

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In our office, we encounter many people who are frustrated with their dentures and are looking for other replacement options. Below is a list of the most common complaints that we get from denture wearers:

- I cannot eat sleek
- I have sore spots
- My dentures keep falling out
- I cannot taste food very well
- I gag while wearing my dentures

If you are a denture wearer, and are experiencing similar problems with your dentures, you are not alone. In previous articles, we discussed some of the reasons why people have trouble with dentures, including: confined bone loss after the loss of teeth and movement of the tongue in their mouth. Hence, the nature of dentures often makes them very difficult to utilize. As dentists, we frequently hear stories from individuals about their negative experiences with dentures.

My colleague shared a story with me about a patient who lost his denture on his honeymoon while on a cruise after enjoying some beers. The patient was in his early forties and hadn't lost his newlywed wife about this denture. Needless to say, it was quite an embarrassing moment for him. Another patient shared a story about how his denture fell out of his mouth while he was leaving out the candles on his birthday cake. These are scenarios that dentists are happy to eliminate for patients by offering the option of dental implants.



Dr. John Inigo

Often enough, dental implants are the ideal solution for many denture patients, so it is a common recommendation I make for my denture patients. Sometimes they respond saying, "But, doctor, I have heard that implants are expensive".

Yes, implants can be an additional cost, but you may be surprised to know that there are many affordable options

available. In many cases, you will get significant improvements over your current dentures with a fee equivalent to or often less than what you would pay for a vacation down south. With monthly payment options that are offered by many dentists, you will be surprised how affordable dental implant therapy can be. Just imagine going on vacation and being able to eat all the foods you want without worrying about your loose dentures. Consider dental implant therapy and you could be smiling confidently all vacation long.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Dentistry, 905-871-2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry, 905-894-5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com.

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Spirit event offers family activities this weekend

KRIS DUBE

Special to the Times

Downtown Ridgeway will be bustling with holiday cheer on Dec. 2 and 3.

The annual Spirit of Christmas festival will take over Ridge Road and most of its local businesses will be participating in some way.

A tree lighting ceremony kicked off the celebration at the village square last Friday, before the Dickens-Style Open House portion of the festival, which has a packed line up of activities.

There will be photos with Santa at Boggio and Edwards pharmacy on the evening of Friday, Dec. 2, as well as

the popular carolling performances from local school choirs at Pacific Productions, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Horse and carriage rides, a One Stop Shop event at the new John Brant Public School, a Made in Fort Erie exhibit at the local historical museum and much more will be offered on Friday night.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, there will be a Breakfast with Santa at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 230, and several other activities throughout the Ridgeway downtown core. Many local shops will have special offers throughout the weekend. There are several other events taking

place all day Saturday.

Gary O'Brien, the Ridgeway BIA's lead organizer for this year's celebration, says the event would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of everyone donating their time to put things together.

"It's a lot of work - our volunteers have been fantastic," said O'Brien.

"All of the credit goes to them," said the owner of Trailside Bar and Grill. It is estimated that up to 3,000 people will come through the Ridgeway area during the two-day festival, a great opportunity to showcase the area to people who may not visit it that often, said

O'Brien.

"Ridgeway is such a picturesque little village - and this is a cute little celebration

to get people in the spirit of things."

The Fort Erie Arts Council is also working on an elabo-

rate exhibit as part of the festive celebration.

For a full list of events, visit www.historicridgeway.com.



KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Ella-Rose Lagace and Ayla Halkes were in the front row for Friday's tree lighting ceremony at the village square in Ridgeway, kicking off this year's Spirit of Christmas. On Dec. 2 and 3, there are plenty of activities for the family to enjoy the festive season.

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Christmas in Stevensville

Stevensville United Brethren Church, 2536 Stevensville Rd., invites you to kick off the Christmas season with us at two special events:



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Police warn of email traffic ticket scam

Niagara Regional Police has issued warning about a new email scam involving fraudulent traffic tickets.

According to police, the emails state the recipient owes police a sum of money for a traffic violation such as negligent driving, and includes a link to the supposed ticket

and information on how to pay the fine.

"We are just starting to see this scam," said NRP Const. Phil Gavin. "It had been reported to us via our social media accounts."

After NRP posted its own warning on its Facebook page last week, a number of residents posted that they

had received the email.

The emails make no reference to Niagara police or any specific law enforcement agency.

Gavin urges the public not to click on any of the links embedded in the message, or reply to the email.

"Delete it," he said.

"Failure to pay fines or

notification of fines owing will not come unsolicited via email. Notification of failure to pay fines is done through traditional mail."

By clicking on the link, malware can be automatically downloaded to a computer.

Police are also reminding the public to ensure

their computers are protected with the latest antivirus and firewall software and use care when opening or dealing with any unsolicited emails.

Anyone who has been a victim of the fraud can contact the police at 905-688-4111 or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or antifraudcentre.ca.



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Gates supports forensic audit of NPCA

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Wayne Gates, MPP of Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake, says he fully supports the work fellow NDP MPP Cindy Forster is doing for constituents who have concerns with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

"The NPCA falls underneath the jurisdiction of the provincial government," Gates said. "It is MPP Forster's duty to address those concerns and bring her constituents' voice forward."

Forster, MPP for Welland, and a local citizen's group have been calling for a forensic audit of some of the agency's activities.

Bruce Timms, chairman of the NPCA, met with Forster at her office last Tuesday and said both sides agreed on the need for better communication.

But the need for a forensic audit is still a matter of dispute.

"The NPCA wanted to know what I want audited," Forster said. "There seemed to be the impression out there that I don't know what a forensic audit is."

"I made clear to them that I have been involved in a number of forensic audits over my 25 years in politics. I wasn't expecting that the forensic audit would be of the entire financial state of the NPCA. It needs to be targeted around the areas of concern."

"Look, it's quite clear that in the past several months the NPCA has come under considerable scrutiny from engaged and passionate members of our community," said Gates.

"The NPCA was designed to play an important role in our community and in order to fulfill that role it requires the support of this community. A call for a forensic audit could be an important step forward to restore faith and increase transparency for the NPCA. Quite frankly, I think it's the right thing to do."

"We have the Great Thornton audities every year," Timms said, following the meeting. "They are statutory audits of our books. She (Forster) hasn't been specific about



MPP Wayne Gates

what she wants audited of the level of a forensic audit.

"We will have to agree to disagree on the need until we see something more specific about the areas of concern."

Tuesday's meeting involved Forster and her staff as well as Timms, NPCA acting CAO Peter Graham and members of the NPCA board.

Forster has also called on the Ministry of Natural Resources to conduct a forensic audit.

"They were concerned that I hadn't come to them first before I wrote my letters to the minister," Forster said.

"I made it very clear to them my job is represent my constituents. I will be happy to pick up the phone when there are issues to be resolved. They want a chance to address their issue. They asked me if I would put some of the issues in writing for them."

A citizens' group — which has authored a report titled A Call for Accountability at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority — has been looking at the internal operations of the conservation authority. A private citizen and whistleblower, Ed Smith, called on Niagara Region council to audit the conservation authority in June. That request was turned down.

Timms said in the 2½ years since



MPP Cindy Forster

the authority began implementing a new strategic plan, it has made significant progress toward improving the administration processes and overall performance.

"It has produced measured improvements and a lot of the issues people are concerned about — what I would call legacy issues," Timms said. "We've done well in solving some of those issues."

"Change will always bring critics. We expect that. We try to address the concerns the best we can. We have to balance the interests of land owners, farmers and stakeholders," St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley, who sits on the opposite side of the aisle from Forster with the governing Liberals at Queen's Park, said he has heard the same concerns Forster has.

"I conveyed the information to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry," Bradley said.

"The ministry said they consulted with their legal branch, and

they were told they don't have the authority to request an audit. It is under the jurisdiction of the municipality."

"Any funding from the ministry they get is only based on a per project basis. All their funding flows from the municipalities. They would have to do the audit."

Bradley said the ministry's hands are tied. Legally they do not have the right to order an audit. He added if Niagara Region gets new information, it may want to order an audit.

"The concerns expressed to me are around hiring practices, the number of environmentally inclined and technically inclined people hired recently, and that a number of other people without those skills have been hired to fill the positions."

"I think there have also been concerns with contracts that have been awarded."

The 45-page report questions the

"strategic restructuring" that took place at the conservation authority. Starting in 2013, about 30 per cent of the staff, which numbered 55, was let go as part of that process, the report said.

Bradley said the citizen's group has a right to express its concerns.

The conservation authority has threatened to take defamation action against Smith. A letter from the authority's lawyers told Smith that as distributor of the 45-page report he is legally responsible for any defamatory statements it contains.

"The evidence they have given their elected representatives is concerning," Bradley said. "They would like to see the site cleared or an investigation take place to see if there are any improprieties. I know the province is reviewing if it should get back into it and have a role to play. They are going through that process right now."

CONTINUED • PAGE 28

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Desserts: Price determined upon order

- Apple Pie • Lemon Tart • Coconut cream pie • Dark chocolate and orange ganache tart
- Pumpkin pie with gingerbread crust and spiced cream • Eggnog cheese cake

News Brief

SPCA hosts Pet Pics

The Fort Erie SPCA knows Santa Claus is an animal lover, a main reason the shelter continues to invite him to its annual Pet Pics event. This year's photo opportunity with Father

Christmas will be Friday from 2 to 7 p.m. at the SPCA's Jarvis Street location. Jamieelle Photography will be offering several options for pet owners to take advantage of with their furry

friends, just in time for the holiday season. Niagara's K9 Joring Club will be a special guest, along with Doggie Delites and Jackie Poulin, who will be offering nail clipping services

on dogs for \$13 and donating five dollars back to the SPCA. There will also be a bake sale, a treasure sale and more items available for purchase, in support of the animal shelter.

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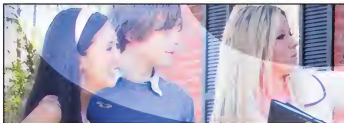
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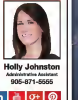
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KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Barb Hopkins says what is most upsetting about someone stealing from a poppy donation box is the sign of disrespect.

'Nothing more disrespectful' than stealing from poppy fund

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 230 president Barbara Hopkins says there is "nothing more disrespectful" than what was discovered last weekend.

On Saturday morning, a local resident dropped off a tattered and rain-soaked

poppy box they found along the Friendship Trail. It still contained several poppies but any cash that was once in it was long gone.

Hopkins also says the only way to determine its point of origin, which local business it was taken from, is putting a call out to the public.

Currently, the boxes aren't

numbered or marked in any way to indicate where it was stationed throughout the campaign.

Different volunteers dropped off the boxes than who picked them up in some areas, which Hopkins says also contributes to the mystery.

"That will be corrected for next year," said Hopkins.

It's also impossible to calculate how much money it was holding when it was lifted from its place and later ditched along the trail.

"We've got them back with as little as \$25 and as much as \$500."

Although it's disappointing that a monetary donation to the Legion's 10-day poppy campaign was lost -

it's even more upsetting that someone would steal from the men and women who have served the country, she added.

"That's the money that gets put away to help our veterans and their families. To me, it's a total lack of disrespect."

This year's poppy campaign at Br. 230 raised \$7,500.

There are about 110 locations that participate in Br. 230's annual campaign leading up to Remembrance Day.

Hopkins has not reached out to the Niagara Regional Police on the matter, saying she doesn't have enough information to provide.

To contact Br. 230, you can call 905-894-5827.



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Events

Come and Enjoy Our Spirit of Christmas in Ridgeway

December 2, 2016

- 5:00-7:30pm: Photos with Santa at Boggio & Edwards IDA, 307 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:15-7:15pm: Children's Choirs at Pacific Productions, 344 Ridge Rd.N. * St.George's Catholic School (5:15-5:45)
* John Brant Public School Jr. (6:00-6:30) * John Brant Public School Sr. (6:45-7:15)
- 5:00-9:00pm: Horse & Carriage Rides through Downtown Ridgeway
- 5:00-9:00pm: Fort Erie Arts Council Christmas Display & Children's Activities at Trailside Bar & Grill, 282 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: Fort Erie Hot Chocolate at Royal Lagoon, 318 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: John Brant Public School's 1st Annual One Stop Christmas Shop, 143 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: "Made In Fort Erie" Exhibit at Fort Erie Museum, 402 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: J.E.Harper & Company Travel Supply - Colouring Christmas Around The World, 314 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: Hot Cider at Ridgeway Wellness Centre, 355 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: Annual Cookie Decorating at Sweet Dreams Ice Cream Parlour and Stewart's Fried Chicken, 367 Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:00-9:00pm: People's Memorial United Church hosts an Open House with hot cider, music and sanctuary tours.
Located at the corner of Dominion & Ridge Rd.N.
- 5:30-8:00pm: Face Painting at Brodie's Drug Store, 314 Ridge Rd.N.
- 6:00-8:00pm: Book signing with Jane Davies & Jude Scott, authors of the new release, "First Hand Accounts of the Battle of Ridgeway" at Fort Erie Museum, 402 Ridge Rd.N.
- 7:00-8:00pm: The Basement Rockers live at The Sanctuary, 209 Ridge Rd.N.
- 7:00-9:00pm: Craft Sale & Free Hot Chocolate at Beachcombers Senior Citizens Centre, 237 Ridge Rd.N.

December 3, 2016

- 8:30-11:00am: Breakfast with Santa Claus at Ridgeway Legion Branch 230, 228 South Mill St.
- 11:00am-2:00pm: Cookie Decorating with Mrs.Claus at Ridgeway Legion Branch 230, 228 South Mill St.
- 11:00am-3:00pm: J.E.Harper & Company Travel Supply - Colouring Christmas Around The World, 314 Ridge Rd.N.
- 11:00am-3:00pm: Horse & Carriage Rides through Downtown Ridgeway
- 11:00am-3:00pm: Visit with Santa at Ridgeway Village Square
- 11:00am-3:00pm: Fort Erie Arts Council Christmas Display & Children's Activities, 282 Ridge Rd.N.
- 11:00am-3:00pm: "Made In Fort Erie" Exhibit at Fort Erie Museum, 402 Ridge Rd.N.
- 11:00am-3:00pm: Annual Cookie Decorating at Sweet Dreams Ice Cream Parlour and Stewart's Fried Chicken, 367 Ridge Rd.N.
- 12:00-2:00pm: "Vintage Blend Barbershop Quartet" at Village Square & around Downtown Ridgeway
- 12:00-3:00pm: Children's Choirs at Pacific Productions, 344 Ridge Rd.N. * Greetings from Mayor Wayne Redekop (11:45am) * Ridgeway Crystal Beach HS (12:00-12:30) * Stevensville Public School (12:45-1:15) * Fort Erie SS (1:30-2:00)



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When did ring-billed gulls take over Navy Island?

I visited an old nature friend, the late Bob Chambers, often at his Snyder home.

I respected Bob for his vast knowledge of the Niagara area. I had some things to share and a few questions to ask of him.

"Bob, go back in time. Do you remember the colonies of common terns on the islands above the Falls circa 1950's? When did you last see the eagle's nest on the north end of Navy Island?"

I shared the following with him from the late nature writer, Edwin Way Teale's, account written here in *Fort Erie* in 1959: "... we all drove back to



the falls. The object of our attention was a remarkable colony of common terns. They were living dangerously, nesting close to the brink of the Horseshoe Falls. A tapered mass of rock shaped like a destroyer cut the rush of water and extended to hardly more than forty to fifty feet from the lip of the cataract. Here

more than 600 terns were nesting ... on this island stronghold the birds of the colony were safe from predators. Neither man nor beast can reach them. ... from birth the young terns are surrounded by the continuous roaring of the falling water ... it seems to us so close to the brink of disaster the light and young graceful terns were well equipped to survive."

Both Bob and I remember the terns. What do you see now on the rocks? Gulls. Ring-billed gulls - lots of them for years now. We believe that the gulls took over as they are a more aggressive species. What do

you think?

Teale continued, "We returned to the colony again the next day this time with Roy W. Sheppard, retired Canadian entomologist and the man who has studied the natural history of the Niagara region more thoroughly than anyone else I know. Other birds were also active now along the brink. Martins and rough-winged swallows coursed back and forth often only inches above the tumbling water."

Note: No mention of ring-billed gulls back then. When did they take over?

Navy Island - 1959. Both Bob Chambers and I recalled

the bald eagle's large nest on the north end of Navy Island. Bob estimated his last sighting about 1957. My recollection was a few years earlier. Here is what Teale wrote in 1959: "On Navy Island, two or three miles above the cataract Roy Sheppard showed us a bald eagle's nest now deserted. ... in recent years the only eagles seen in the vicinity have been transients. Great horned owls raised a brood in the abandoned Navy Island nest. Later it was occupied by raccoons."

In 1998 the late Fort Erie's Gene Muma ("Mc Navy Island"), Bud Henningham, and myself looked for evidence of that large nest-

ing tree. We found a huge fallen maple not far from the north tip. There was a scattering of branches that could have served as part of a bald eagle nesting structure. Not far from there the Ministry of Natural Resources had put up a nesting platform for any bald eagle pair.

Next time on the Niagara Parkway slow down and see if you can sight the structure high on a tree on our side of Navy Island. Just recently, with bird glasses in hand I surveyed that north end of Navy Island from across the way. Check out the eagle platform there as more covering leaves fall away.

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Book Signing

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Timms 'disappointed' with media coverage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has reacted to an article published in Postmedia's local newspapers last week with a public relations blitz.

In response to the controversy and Postmedia coverage, Timms has released what he called a Special Statement from the Chair regarding a recent article.

The article detailed a series of allegations and questions from a citizen-generated report. The report is titled A Call for Accountability at the Ni-

agara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

The statement, in the form of an open letter, was posted to the authority's website, promoted on Facebook and shared by e-mail.

"I am extremely disappointed in the article published in the Postmedia publications on Nov. 21, regarding the alleged improprieties at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)," Timms wrote.

"Although Postmedia referred to portions of the letter sent by our legal counsel to Ed Smith with respect to false and defam-

atory statements in the unsigned document he has circulated, Postmedia omitted crucial facts in the letter, and many other details, which are part of the public record of the NPCA."

The article centred on the authority threatening legal action against Smith, 54, a retired major in the Canadian Air Force, with legal action for distributing the 45-page report, which is unsigned.

Smith said he is a concerned citizen. He and a group of activists have been filing Freedom of Information requests and collecting

information about the inner workings of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

The letter to Smith from the authority's lawyer only addressed three specific allegations in the 45 report.

Smith planned to hold a press conference Wednesday to address NPCA's threatened litigation and "release some newly uncovered documents in his push for transparency and accountability at the NPCA," a news release said.

bsauchuk@postmedia.com

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Perfect time to right 50-year wrong

PENNY COLES
Postmedia Network

It's taken 50 years for a Fort Erie football team to be recognized for a championship game they won in 1966. Last week, the Ridgeway Crystal-Beach High School Blue Devils were presented with the Bobby Fox Award, given every year since 1956 to the Niagara zone 3 high school champion.

The Blue Devils played Notre Dame Collegiate in 1966, winning 14-0 after an undefeated season.

The presentation came about as a result of local historian John Millington deciding to research the Bobby Fox Trophy, and discovering that the tag on the cup presented in 1966 had the name of two schools on it — the Devils and Notre Dame. It was the only year the second-place team

was also acknowledged on the cup, and he was curious to know why, he said.

He got in touch with Jim MacDonald, the Devils quarterback for 1966, and learned the cup has never been presented to the winning team. Bobby Fox, who customarily presented the trophy in his name, and Notre Dame, the defending champion, had failed to bring the cup to the game.

The next year, 1967, the Devils retained their football championship after another undefeated season, said Millington, and this time the trophy was presented to the Blue Devils captain.

Upon receiving the award, he said, "the Devils found that Notre Dame had forged their name on the 1966 tag as a champion."

After talking to Fox and Pat Hudak, the 1966 coach

of the championship team, Millington arranged for a five-decade wrong to be righted, and organized a presentation of the trophy to the Blue Devils during half-time at this year's championship game, which was held at Kiwanis Field in St. Catharines Nov. 23, between A.N. Myer and Denis Morris.

With the doors of RCBHS scheduled to close in June

2017, Millington said it was the right time to make the presentation.

"Researching the story was a lot of fun," he said, as was the presentation, and a photograph taken of the event will now make its way into the school archives.

"This will be a good addition to the school's picture collection," he said.

CONTINUED PAGE 31

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Friday, November 4, 2016



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Bobby Fox (centre) presents the trophy in his name to the 1956 Blue Devils quarterback Jim MacDonald and coach of the team that won the championship that year, Pat Hudak. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fox honoured for courage he displayed on field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Fox, from Welland, was the "quintessential student athlete," wrote Milligan as a result of his research.

After attending Port Colborne and then Notre Dame high schools, Fox continued to be active in sports, and in 1958, while playing for the Niagara Falls Thunderbird football team, Fox "suffered such a severe

injury that his left leg had to be amputated."

A defensive halfback, the Thunderbirds honored Fox with the first Bobby Fox Award for "his courage on the field and for his indomitable spirit in life."

Later that fall, Fox, still recovering from surgery, "made his way on crutches to the Welland Tigers football banquet - with him the trophy

bearing his name," Milligan wrote.

The team was Fox's former high school archival, and had just captured the 1958 zone 3 championship.

"At the banquet, Bob made his first of over half century of presentations in a manner that can only be described as a class act," said Milligan.

"That night, the legacy of the Bobby Fox Award was born."

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by December 23rd please!!

* Food Donations will be Gratefully accepted for Salvation Army at these locations



News Briefs

Shopping day for kids

St. Nick's Shopping Day, an event celebrated annually by Fort Erie families for many years, will take place this Saturday.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Paul's Anglican Church, elves will assist children (aged 3 to 13) with their

Christmas shopping list, picking out gifts that are wrapped on-site and taken home to be put under the tree for their parents or other family members.

All items are priced between 25 cents and five dollars. There will be food, draws, photo opportunities with Santa, and more.

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NOTICE OF PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

Planning Act, 1990, c. P 13, ss.34(18), O.Reg. 545/06

APPLICANT: DOUG DARBYSON

FILE NO. 350309-0423

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed **By-law No. 132-2016** on the 28th day of November, 2016 under section 34 (18) of The Planning Act, 1990.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board in respect of the by-law by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie not later than the **21st day of December, 2016**, a notice of the appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection. Any appeal must be accompanied by the Board's fee of \$300.00. A certified cheque or money order in this amount made payable to the Minister of Finance must accompany the Notice of Appeal.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a zoning by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board. A Notice of Appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a Notice of Appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

The complete By-law and map is available for inspection in the Clerk's office during regular office hours and can also be found on the **Town of Fort Erie Website: www.forterie.ca**.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

The purpose and effect of By-law No. 132-2016 is to amend Town of Fort Erie Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 129-90 by changing the zoning of the lands shown on the location map below from "Rural (RU)" Zone to "Rural (RU-566)" Zone (Part 1) and "Rural (RU-567)" Zone (Part 2)".

Rural (RU-566) Zone

- Minimum lot frontage – 70 metres
- Minimum lot area – 4.7 hectares

Rural (RU-567) Zone

The lands may only be used for the following:

- Single detached dwelling on tertiary sewage treatment system
- Accessory apartment
- Home occupations
- Agricultural uses
- Agriculturally related uses

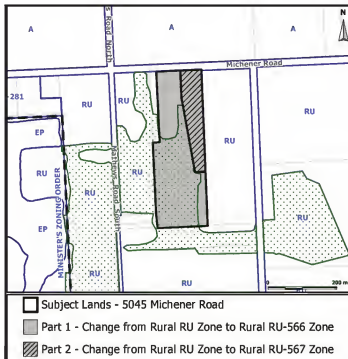
The following provisions shall apply:

- Minimum lot frontage – 60 metres
- Minimum lot area – 1.4 hectares
- Minimum westerly interior side yard setback to accessory building – 3.0 metres
- Minimum easterly interior side yard setback to accessory building – 18.9 metres
- Minimum rear yard setback to accessory building – 3.0 metres

OTHER APPLICATIONS

The Applicant has completed an application for severance (File No. B41/16 FE) which is scheduled to be heard by the Committee of Adjustment at its meeting to be held January 19th, 2016.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016
LAURA BUBANKO, MANAGER, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES/CLERK



Meteors win five of last six games

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

The Fort Erie Junior B Meteors have won five of their last six games after Saturday's 7-1 walloping of the Buffalo Regals.

It was Buffalo's 26th consecutive regulation loss and the first game in their second half of the season.

Coming off a 5-4 defeat in St. Catharines on Friday night, Meteors head coach Todd Clayton said his squad was able to bounce back the next day and that everyone has been firing on all cylinders over the last few weeks.

"We've got a full lineup and guys are believing in themselves," said Clayton after the game.

"Their hard work in practice is paying off in games."

The Meteors were up 2-0 after the first period after powerplay goals from Jordan Russell (assisted by (Pierre Luc Cote Forget and Bryan Zurowski) and Cody Petawabano (assisted by (Andrew Somerville and Dakota Miskolczi).

Buffalo was able to make it 2-1 early in the second but Fort Erie added two more - Jordan Russell notched his second of the game (assisted by Danny Katic and Pierre Luc Cote Forget), followed by a powerplay marker from Bryce Martin (assisted by Andrew Somerville and Bryan Zurowski).

CONTINUED > PAGE 36

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Meteors play at home Saturday

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 35

Fort Erie added three more in the last 20 minutes scored by Cail Cirillo (assisted by Calvert Jennings and Danny Katic), Pierre Luc Forget (assisted by Bryan Zarowski and Alexander Walters) and Jordan Russell (assisted by Bryce Martin and Jacob Broughton), finishing off the hat trick.

The Meteors (10-15-0-0) will visit the Ancaster Avalanche (13-9-0-3) Friday night before facing them again at home on Saturday at 7:15 p.m.



JOSEPH DURO, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Fort Erie Meteor #19 Jordan Russell throws one into the net, making the score 3-1 in favour of the Meteors in what would end in a 6-1 win against the Buffalo Regals. Russell scored three goals in the game making him the first star. The Meteors next home game is Saturday Dec. 3 against Ancaster.

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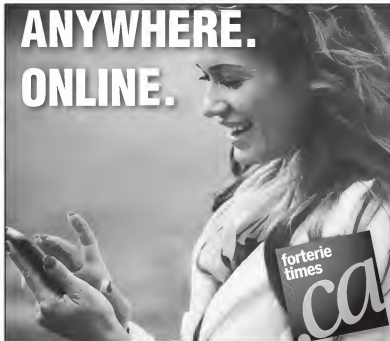
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Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 2016

Music of the season 6:30pm

Memorial Service 7:00pm

Peoples Memorial United Church

Corner of Ridge Rd. N & Dominion

Refreshments to follow

Wednesday, Dec. 7th, 2016

Music of the season 6:30pm

Memorial Service 7:00pm

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Niagara Blvd. & Gilmore Rd

Refreshments to follow

Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Obituaries

Obituaries

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CECCATO, Louis Frederick (Fred)

Who passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of his family on Wednesday November 9th 2016 will be remembered with a Celebration of Life to be held at the Niagara Falls Optimist Club Sunday December 4th at 2pm. Fred was an dedicated member of the Optimist Club for over 50 years. He will be missed. Donations to Niagara Children's Center or the contribution of an unwrapped toy would be appreciated by the Family.

Coming Events

Coming Events

Fort Erie SPCA

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Also, with The Scrooge & The Grinch
© The Grinch, 410 Jarvis Street
December 2nd 2pm-7pm

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Gift Baskets, Rummage Sale

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

My Loving Memory

MAULUCCI, Joseph -

April 16, 1927-November 27, 1986.

"To have, to hold and then to part,
is the greatest sorrow of the heart"

30 years have gone by so quickly.
Never forgotten and always near.

Love Carmela and Family.

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

SIVILOTTI, Enzo -

In memory of my beloved husband,
Enzo Sivillotti, who passed away on
December 4th, 2008.

Lovingly remembered
and missed every day.
Kathryn and family.

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

WARNER, Charles E.

August 17, 1946 - December 1, 2014

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Obituaries Obituaries Obituaries Obituaries

MCNEIL, Margaret "Joan" - Passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on November 22, 2016 at the age of 84. She was a beloved wife of the late Peter, loving mother of Alan (Addy) and Barbara (Todi) Carlson, cherished grandmother of Colin (Krista) Lee and Tristan (Jennifer) Lee. Proud "GG" of Tyson and Gryphon. Sadly missed by her sister Shirley (Ken) O'Brien and the Halbert and Carlson clans. Joan left the prairies after psychiatric nurse training to marry Peter and make their home in Fort Erie. She continued her career at Douglas Memorial Hospital and after a break for children, later worked as a physiotherapist aide there. Peter and Joan enjoyed many happy years together with great friends and neighbours. In later years, Joan volunteered and worked with many organizations that she felt made her beloved community so strong. Music was a huge part of Joan's life and she was an active choir member even up until a year ago. Her lifelong friendships and devotion to her family are a tribute to a life well lived. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Road N., Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. Family received friends on Friday afternoon from 4:00 to 8:00 pm and a celebration of her life was held in the chapel on Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations to the Douglas Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in her memory.

WILLIAMS, Kenneth Arthur James - P.Eng. OLS - of Fonthill. In his 91st year at Shaver Hospital, on Saturday, November 26, 2016. Beloved husband for 69 years to Iris (nee Law). Dear father to Sam Minor (Jim), Paul Williams (Gillian), Susan Barnhardt (Wayne) and Shalee Niznik (Harry). Lovingly remembered by grandchildren: Jeffrey Minor (Nicky), Michelle Avery (Al), Sy Williams (Taryn), Matthew Williams (Laura), Adam Williams (Renae), Katie Erie (Tom), Michael Barnhardt (Carlene), Stephen Barnhardt (Hayley), Robert Barnhardt, Kevin Niznik, Andrew Niznik (Mandy), Heather Niznik (David) and 17 great-grandchildren. Also survived by: sisters-in-law: Phyllis Rittenhouse, Thelma Hopkins and brothers-in-law Ron Law (Phyllis), Sam Law (Kim) and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Arthur C. and Mary J. Williams and his sisters Hallett Cornett (Clare) and Verdun Armstrong (Tom). He was born in Welland, on January 2, 1925 where he spent his childhood. In 1943, he enlisted and served in the Canadian Armed Forces until 1946. Ken graduated from the University of Toronto as both a Civil Engineer and an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1950. He began his career as a consulting engineer at C.R. Hagley Engineering, then became the Engineer for the Town of Fort Erie, Engineer for Welland County and finally at the Niagara Region as a Systems Engineer in Roadways and the Water and Pollution Control Divisions from where he retired in 1988. Ken served his community in several areas including board member of the Douglas Memorial Hospital and Fonthill United Church. He served as an Alderman for the Town of Pelham. He was also an active member of both the Fonthill and Fort Erie Lions Club, Westbrook Golf Club, Phoenix Masonic Lodge, the Royal Canadian Legion Fonthill #613 and Lookout Golf and Country Club. Ken's greatest life's pleasures were time spent with his family, in his garden or on the golf course. Family received friends at the **JAMES L. PEDLAR FUNERAL HOME**, 1298 Pelham Street, Fonthill on Tuesday, November 29th from 2-4 and 7-9 pm. The funeral service to honour Ken's life took place at Fonthill United Church on Wednesday, November 30th at 11:00 am with interment following at Fonthill Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke or the Fonthill United Church. Online condolences may be shared at www.pedlarfuneralhome.ca

Fall Worship Services

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH
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TIME: 11:00 AM
DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016
WHERE: ST. JOHN'S STEVENSVILLE
UNITED CHURCH

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905-382-3344



stjohnsstevensvilleunitedchurch.com

St. John's Stevensville United Church is home base for NOW, or Niagara Online Worship, shared with other United Churches on many Sundays and "piped" by computer to shut-ins in Greater Fort Erie, by online book-ups on TV in Nursing homes, and available to parishioners in Florida through the winter as well as others anywhere in the world, as shown by tracking records. This is not "televangelism" with appeals for funds for the church, but merely and purely a service to bring assurances of God's love to those burdened with care, and to equip people for "more abundant life" in Jesus Christ, wherever they are. Sunday worship service 11:00 am; only minutes to Sodom Rd, Ft. Erie, just north of Stevensville, QEW

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1kg
Valid 12/03/16

DAY
2



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FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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